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Amendments to the Drawings

New Figure 27 is being added to illustrate the feature of a behind-the-ear type hearing aid. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification as filed at, for example, page 23, lines 10-13; page 31, line 9; and in originally-filed Claims 13, 25 and 38.

Reference to the new figure has been added to the Specification.

Attachment: New Drawing Sheet

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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 42-44 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-9 and 43 have been allowed.

Claims 10, 11 and 44 have been amended to specify that the "shell [is] substantially translucent over substantially the entire surface of the shell." With the entry of this amendment, it is believed that Claims 10-14, 42 and 44 are now allowable, since the cited Arndt patent (U.S. 5,357,576) fails to teach or suggest this limitation.

New Figure 27 has been added to illustrate the feature of a behind-the-ear hearing aid. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification as filed at, for example, page 23, lines 10-13; page 31, line 9; and in originally-filed Claims 13, 25 and 38. With the entry of this amendment, it is believed the drawing objection is overcome.

The double patenting rejections are traversed on the ground that the present claims are not unpatentable over the claims of U.S. 5,881,159 and U.S. 6,473,511. There are numerous limitations of the present claims that are not recited or suggested in the claims of the cited patents. For example, the claims of the cited patents do not recite or suggest the limitation of a "shell including at least a substantially translucent or transparent faceplate, at least a portion of at least one hearing aid component located interior of the faceplate being tinted," as is recited in Claims 1-9 and 43. In addition, the claims of the cited patents do not recite or suggest the limitation of a "shell being substantially translucent over substantially the entire surface of the shell," as is recited in Claims 10-14, 42 and 44. Withdrawal of the double patenting rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on June 15, 2006. Entry of the Supplemental IDS is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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